

JUL 30 2007

Application Serial No. 09/782,011

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for inspecting ~~any of the properties of a consumer's computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripherals, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers~~, comprising the steps of:

5 at least one inspector, which includes an inspector library having special purpose executable code, executing on said consumer's computer;

10 said inspector automatically and without receiving consumer input querying at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer, wherein said physical device comprises any of said computer's:

15 storage device;

operating system version;

operating system property;

RAM;

ROM; and

20 registry;

wherein said inspector performs any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers; and

25 wherein said inspector automatically evaluates a database of advise for relevance to said consumer's computer by use of an automated advise reader, wherein said advise reader operates in the absence of consumer involvement.

2 - 4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

5 sending certain relevance clauses to a remote location;
evaluating said clauses; and
returning said clauses after a user is made aware of what is being transferred; wherein properties of said remote location are learned.

10 6. (Cancelled)

15 7. (Previously Amended) An computer implemented inspector for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripherals, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, said inspector comprising:

17 an inspector library containing executable code, which is invoked as part of a continual relevance evaluation process, executing on said consumer's computer;

20 wherein said inspector is configured to automatically and without receiving consumer input query at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer, wherein said inspector does not inspect a printer of said computer's peripherals;

25 one or more automatic unattended inspector methods for performing any of mathematico-logical calculations, executing computational algorithms, returning the results of system calls, accessing the contents of storage devices, and querying devices or remote computers; and

wherein a one way membrane allows said inspector methods to view a relevant advisory without divulging user's identity.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein certain relevance clauses are sent to a remote location, evaluated, and returned, after a user is made aware of what is being transferred, wherein properties of the remote location can be learned.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein properties which can be learned are an arbitrary combination of elementary properties that are determined according to basic calculations.

11. (Previously Amended) The inspector of Claim 10, said inspector library further comprising any of:

- 15 a declaration of a Phrase to be used in a relevance language;
- an association of said Phrase to a specific method;
- a declaration of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;
- a declaration of a calling prototype of said specific method, including a number and required data types of arguments to be supplied to said specific method;
- 20 a declaration of a result data type of said specific method;
- an implementation of said specific method in executable form;
- a declaration of special hooks associating code to be called on events;
- a declaration of special hooks associated with creation and maintenance of special caches associated with said specific method; and
- 25 an implementation of special event methods and cache methods in executable form.

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12. (Currently Amended) In a computer implemented system including computational devices connected by a communications network, said system comprising a communications apparatus for linking an information provider to information consumer; said communications apparatus comprising specific units of advice to be shared, digital documents conveying said advice, an advice provider for broadcasting said advice in the form of advisories, an advice consumer for receiving said advisories, wherein advisories are broadcast over said communications network from said advice provider to said advice consumer, a communications protocol for narrowly-focused targeting of said advisories to said advice consumer by automatically matching advisories with an advice consumer for whom said advisories are relevant, said system comprising:

an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination without user intervention, wherein said relevance determination is driven by a database of relevance clauses which can be continually evaluated;

at least one inspector executing on said consumer's computer, comprising:

an inspector library and associated methods for evaluating subexpressions with said at least one inspector;

wherein said inspector library contains executable code which is invoked by said inspector dispatcher as part of said relevance determination process;

wherein said inspector is configured to automatically and without receiving consumer input query at least one physical device communicatively coupled to said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer;

wherein said inspector comprises use of any of:

a database containing information about the user;

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a remote inspector, wherein said remote inspector comprises use of at least one of a remote physical measurement, a remote database query, and a remote relevance invocation;

a log file; and

5 operates using user profile data, and

wherein said inspector performs any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers.

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13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) A method for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said 15 computer's peripherals, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, comprising the steps of:

providing an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination by evaluating a database of relevance clauses; and

20 providing an inspector library that contains executable code which is invoked by said inspector dispatcher as part of said relevance determination process.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein an object, property name, 25 and/or string selector is dispatched to said dispatcher for relevance evaluation using a method dispatch module in accordance with dispatch information contained within a method dispatch table.

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16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said method dispatch module performs the steps of:

 parsing a clause in a relevance language;

 generating a list of method dispatched in response to said parsing step, 5 wherein specific methods are called in a specific order with specific argument lists; and

 systematically carrying out a sequence of method dispatches in an appropriate order.

10 17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein said at least one inspector is built into said inspector dispatcher.

15 18. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripheral, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, comprising:

 an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination by evaluating a database of relevance clauses; and

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19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 18, said inspector library further comprising any of:

 a declaration of a Phrase to be used in a relevance language;

 an association of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;

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 a declaration of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;

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a declaration of a calling prototype of said specific method, including a number and required data types of arguments to be supplied to said specific method;

5 a declaration of a result data type of said specific method;

5 an implementation of said specific method in executable form;

10 a declaration of special hooks associating code to be called on events, said events including any of inspector dispatcher initialization, inspector dispatcher termination, beginning of inspector dispatcher main evaluation loop, and ending of inspector dispatcher main evaluation loop;

10 a declaration of special hooks associated with creation and maintenance of special caches associated with said specific method; and

15 an implementation of special event methods and cache methods in executable form.

15 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

20 invoking said inspector with an advice reader running on said consumer's computer.

25 accessing said special purpose executable code using said advice reader.

25 23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

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installing at least a portion of contents of said inspector library at run-time.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

5 delivering advisories from an advice provider to said consumer's computer based upon results from said at least one inspector.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said step of delivering advisories from an advice provider further comprises the step of:

10 delivering information from a plurality of advice providers.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein information about a consumer does not transfer from said consumer's computer unless said consumer initiates said transfer.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

dynamically updating a collection of said inspector libraries.

20 28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of inspecting using said at least one inspector any of:

version;

operating system;

registry;

25 preferences;

a database;

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advise system;

user profile; and

program log files.

5 29. (Withdrawn) A method for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripherals, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, comprising the steps of:

10. providing an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination by evaluating a database of relevance clauses; and

providing an inspector library that contains executable code which is invoked by said inspector dispatcher as part of said relevance determination process.

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30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 29, wherein an object, property name, and/or string selector is dispatched to said dispatcher for relevance evaluation using a method dispatch module in accordance with dispatch information contained within a method dispatch table.

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31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 30, wherein said method dispatch module performs the steps of:

parsing a clause in a relevance language;

25. generating a list of method dispatched in response to said parsing step, wherein specific methods are called in a specific order with specific argument lists; and

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systematically carrying out a sequence of method dispatches in an appropriate order.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 29, wherein said at least one inspector
5 is built into said inspector dispatcher.

33. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for inspecting any of the properties of a computer, said computer's configuration, contents of said computer's storage devices, said computer's peripheral, said computer's environment, or remote 10 affiliated computers, comprising:

an inspector dispatcher associated with an advice client computer for continually performing relevance determination by evaluating a database of relevance clauses.

15. 34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 33, said inspector library further comprising any of:

a declaration of a phrase to be used in a relevance language;

an association of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;

a declaration of a new data type to be used in an evaluation process;

20 a declaration of a calling prototype of said specific method, including a number and required data types of arguments to be supplied to said specific method;

a declaration of a result data type of said specific method;

an implementation of said specific method in executable form;

25 a declaration of special hooks associating code to be called on events, said events including any of: inspector dispatcher initialization, inspector

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dispatcher termination, beginning of inspector dispatcher main evaluation loop, and ending of inspector dispatcher main evaluation loop;

a declaration of special hooks associated with creation and maintenance of special caches associated with said specific method; and

5 an implementation of special event methods and cache methods in executable form.

35. (New) A computer implemented method for inspecting any of the properties of a consumer's computer, said computer's configuration, contents of 10 said computer's storage devices, said computer's environment, or remote affiliated computers, comprising the steps of:

at least one inspector, which includes an inspector library having special purpose executable code, executing on said consumer's computer;

15 said inspector automatically and without receiving consumer input querying at least one physical property of said consumer's computer, in order to glean property information concerning said consumer's computer;

wherein said inspector performs any of mathematico-logical calculations, executes computational algorithms, returns the results of system calls, accesses the contents of storage devices, and queries devices or remote computers; and

20 wherein said inspector automatically evaluates a database of advise for relevance to said consumer's computer by use of an automated advise reader, wherein said advise reader operates in the absence of consumer involvement.

36. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein said physical property comprises 25 any of said computer's:

speed;

manufacturer;

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model;

MMX; and

cache.

5 37. (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein said inspector operates on at least one element that is not a printer.